THE TENTH DAY.

Thursday, the 8th March 1928.

The Assembly met again at 11. 30 A. M. on Thursday, the 8th March 1928, Rao Bahadur Mr. R. Krishna Pillai, Devaswom Commissioner, presiding. In opening the proceedings, Mr. Krishna Pillai announced that as the Dewan was slightly indisposed, he was authorised to conduct the proceedings on that day.

The representations of the members were then resumed.

158. Merchants and the Income-Tax Regulation.

MR. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Trading Classes, Kayancolam*) stated that the merchants of Kayancolam experienced considerable inconvenience in taking their account books to the Income-tax officers at Alleppey and Haripad. He suggested that arrangements might be made for the examination of the accounts at Kayancolam instead of at Alleppey and Haripad.

As regards the D returns to be sent by the merchants to the income-tax officers, the member stated that these returns could be prepared only after the preparation of the annual accounts. He therefore suggested that the returns might be called for only in the month of Vrischigam every year or, in the alternative, that applications for postponing the date of submission of the D returns might be exempted from the operation of the Court Fees Regulation.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY : Mr. Krishna Pillai, there has already been a representation on this subject by another member during this very session and I would invite your attention to the reply given by the Dewan. I may add that the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner has recently issued a circular order directing that as far as possible the accounts of assessees should be examined in their places of business.

159. Needs of Kayancolam.

MR. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Trading Classes, Kayancolam*) spoke of the following needs of Kayancolam :—

(*a*) A salt bankshall should be established at Kayancolam. About forty thousand sacks of salt were brought to Kayancolam every year from Alleppey. Much difficulty was experienced by the merchants in storing and selling all this salt.

(*b*) The motor traffic through the Kayancolam town should be diverted as early as possible to the less crowded parts of the town as proposed by the Public Works Department.

(*c*) A branch of the State-Aided Bank should be established at Kayancolam.

(*d*) The local Magistrate should be empowered to register the weights and measures used by the merchants of the town, instead of requiring the merchants to take these things to the Tahsildar, whose headquarters were at Haripad.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY : Mr. Krishna Pillai, your suggestion that a salt bankshall should be established in Kayancolam will be disposed of in consultation with the Excise Commissioner. The construction of a deviation road to the south of Kayancolam Munsiff's court mentioned by you is engaging the attention of the Chief Engineer.

In regard to the establishment of the branch of the State-Aided Bank at Kayancolam, it is premature to consider the question, since the Bank was opened at Alleppey only recently.

The question of investing the local Magistrate with the power of examining and registering weights and measures under Regulation VI of 1085 will be considered.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

160. Grievances of the Arayas.

MR. A. GOVINDAN ARAYAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Araya community was very backward in point of education. But the few people who were educated got no encouragement from the Government. The member therefore requested that qualified Araya candidates might be entertained in the Government service and that they might be exempted from the operation of the rule regarding age-bar. As regards those already in the service, the member requested that they might be confirmed soon in their appointments.

The member next suggested that Rao Saheb P. V. Gopalan, now Honorary Labour Officer under the Madras Government, might be appointed as Protector of the Depressed Classes in Travancore. Mr. Gopalan had served in several honorary posts under the Government of Madras. He was also the nominated representative of the depressed classes in the Madras Legislative Council for some time. In whatever capacity he worked he had put forth his best efforts to advance the cause of the depressed classes.

In conclusion, the member requested that an Araya member might be nominated to the next Legislative Council. The term 'Araya' as used in the Census Report included Nulayans, Valans, Mukkuvans, and Marakkans. The total strength of these classes came to over a lakh. They deserved to have a permanent representative in the Council.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY : Mr. Govindan Arayan, I have nothing more to add to what has already been stated in this Assembly by the Dewan in regard to the question of public service. In regard to your request for a general exemption of the members of your community from the rule relating to age bar, I may tell you that no such general exemption can be allowed but that individual cases when brought to the notice of Government will be considered and disposed of on their merits. You complain about the delay in the confirmation of acting incumbents. This is inevitable in the public service. Permanent vacancies occur only rarely and it takes time before acting hands are confirmed. In regard to your proposal to appoint Mr. Rao Sahib Gopalan as Protector of the Depressed Classes, you will find from the Dewan's opening address to the Assembly that the appointment of a full-time officer to look after the interests of the depressed classes has not itself been decided upon. That being the case, the question of nominating any person to the post is premature.

161. Concessions to the Ezhavas.

MR. S. KRISHNAN ASAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that in respect of their laws of inheritance the Ezhava population of the State fell into two classes *viz.*, the Makkatayis and the Misradayis. According to the Misradaya law of inheritance, one half of the properties of a person went to his own children and the other half to the children of his sisters. Most of the Ezhavas to the south of Karunagapally were Misradayis. As the representative of these Ezhavas, the member desired to bring to the notice of Government some of their grievances about the recent Ezhava Regulation.

A joint family like that of a Misradayi Ezhava was to all intents and purposes a corporation consisting as well of the deceased as of the living members of the family. The properties of the family formed, so to speak, an endowment on behalf of this corporation. The living members of the family could claim maintenance out of the properties, while for the deceased, their souls sought propitiation out of the rites and ceremonies for the performance of which these properties were to be utilised. But the effect of the Ezhava Regulation was to destroy the corporate nature of the family and its properties. By introducing the principle of individual partition, the Regulation dealt a death-blow at the time-honoured joint family.

Now, there were many thousands of Ezhavas who desired to get exemption from the operation of the Ezhava Regulation. The number of such people could not, as some people alleged, be counted on the fingers. Indeed, a perusal of the lists

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly